

REMARKS

Election of Species

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the Application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- A. Group I – Figs. 1-16;
- B. Group II – Figs. 17-23;
- C. Group III – Figs. 24-27;
- D. Group IV – Figs. 28-31;
- E. Group V – Fig. 32;
- F. Group VI – Fig. 33;
- G. Group VII – Fig. 34;
- H. Group VIII – Figs. 35-37;
- I. Group IX – Figs. 38-40;
- J. Group X – Fig. 41; and
- K. Group XI – Figs. 42-45.

The Examiner required Applicants to elect a single species and identify corresponding claims for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group II, (Figures 17-23), which corresponds to Claims 37-47, without traverse. Accordingly, Claims 37-47 are now presented for examination.

The election of Group II (FIGURES 17-23) and cancellation of Claims 48-74 (without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits) in response to the election of species requirement is not a narrowing claim amendment, and should not be interpreted to limit the scope of the pending claims or the range of permissible equivalents.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would advance the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 9/20/02

By Scott D. Anderson

FOLEY & LARDNER
777 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5367
Telephone: (414) 297-5740
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

Scott D. Anderson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,521